



Amalgam Separator Buyer's Guide



What are your purchasing options?

- Purchasing the unit and maintaining it yourself.
- Purchasing the unit and contracting with a company to maintain it.
- Leasing the unit with maintenance service inclusive in the fee.

Consider the total life-cycle costs:

- *Purchase or lease cost* – Cost can vary significantly, based on many operational factors.
- *Installation cost* – Most installations take an hour, but some can take several hours.
- *Additional equipment costs* – This can include optional holding or surge tanks, flow restrictors, a buffer container, and high-performance scrubber modules.
- *Maintenance costs* – Some systems require minimal labor time and maintenance cost, while other systems can require daily or weekly maintenance by dental staff, which can include application of cleaners to maintain good operation of the separator system.
- *Replacement cost* – Canisters or entire separators for some systems have to be replaced when full (anywhere from 3-18 months, system dependent) or on an annual basis at a significant cost.
- *Shipping costs* – Suppliers may offer free shipping of the waste collector as a part of the replacement cost.
- *Recycling costs* – Suppliers may offer free recycling service of the collector as part of the replacement cost.

Table of estimated annual cost:

System Costs	Small (1-4 Chairs/1-2 Doctors)	Medium (5-12 Chairs/3-6 Doctors)	Large (12+ Chairs/6+ Doctors)
Purchase	\$200 - \$1200	\$665 - \$2200	\$2500 - \$8800
Installation	\$100 - \$200	\$125 - \$260	\$200 - \$1000
Maintenance	\$0 - \$200	\$0 - \$200	\$0 - \$200
Replacement	\$50 - \$750	\$75 - \$750	\$500 - \$2100
Estimated Annual Cost	\$185 - \$940	\$255 - \$975	\$1740 - \$4060

- Prices listed on this table and the list on the following page are not quotes, but rather are prices based on information from manufacturers and referenced reports.
- Maintenance cost does not include labor cost; just the cost of cleaners, and is averaged to annual estimates.
- Replacement cost includes the cost of recycling service and shipping and is averaged to annual estimates.
- Estimated annual cost, based on 5-year average life-cycle costs, excluding repairs.

References:

- [1] Amalgam Separators Approved by King County, Washington; King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks: Industrial Waste Program, May 2004. http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/indwaste/sep_table.pdf
- [2] San Francisco City and County List of Amalgam Separators. http://sfwater.org/Files/FactSheets/Approved_Separators_List_031705.pdf
- [3] Vermont Dental Amalgam Separator Pilot Project. Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, August 2004. <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec/ead/mercury/PDF/AmalgamSeparatorReport.pdf>

Separator Company	Contact Details	Make & Model	Separation Technology	Removal Efficiency @ Tested Flow Rate	Vac Pump	# of Chairs	Size (In) (h x l x w)	Install Location	Initial Cost	Cost of Maintenance	Additional Info
AB Dental Trends	Roger Weiss (800) 817-6704	Rasch 890-1000 Rasch 890-6000	Settlement Filtration Ion Exchange	99.3% at 2 liters/min & 96.7% at 4 liters/min	Wet Dry	1-12 1-12	28.5 x 10.3 x 12.8 5 x 9 x 12.25	Central Vacuum	\$1,190 \$666	Replacement canister cost is \$596, includes recycling fees. Canister replaced every 18 months for 1 chair usage.	Scrubber module available.
Air Techniques	(800) 247-8324	Guardian Amalgam Collector	Settlement	99.3% at 2.5 liters/min	Wet & Dry	Variable	7.5 x 10.5 x 6.25	Central Vacuum	\$750 for unit	Clean daily, collectors need replacing every 9-12 months for 1-2 chairs, and are approx. \$750 each, includes recycling.	The system must be installed below an air/water separator.
American Dental Accessories (Also sells the SolmeteX Hg5, details below)	Rick Zeiska (800) 331-7993	Asdex AS-9	Settlement Filtration	97.3% at 1 liter/min	Wet & Dry	1	11.5 x 3 x 3	Chairside or Central V	\$200	Dental office replaces the filter every 3 months at cost of \$79, includes waste filter disposal.	Amalgam disposal service.
		Rasch 890 AD-1000	Settlement Filtration Ion Exch.	99.3% at 2 liters/min & 96.7% at 4 liters/min	Wet & Dry	10	8 x 10.5 x 14	Central Vacuum	\$825	Canister is replaced every 18 months and is \$496 each.	
Bio-Synm Medical Association	Tim Thompson. 800-947-7550 604-476-1741	Merc II	Settlement Filtration Ion Exch.	95.2% at 2 liters/min	Wet & Dry	8	8 x 13 x 7	Chairside or Central V	\$845	Replacement collector costs \$595 annually, includes shipping + recycling.	
DRNA Waste Management	Marc Sussman 800-360-1001 x11	Bu10 Bu30	Settlement	99.9% N/A, (Batch Process)	Wet & Dry	1-6 7-12	21 x 9 x 8.5 25 x 12.5 x 12.5	Central Vacuum	\$695 \$1395	Annual replacement, recycling, and shipping costs \$450 for Bu10 and \$650 for Bu30.	Electricity required.
Hygenitek, Inc.	Katie Lubin 866-494-3648	ARU-10	Settlement Filtration Ion Exch.	> 99% at 0.75 liters/min	Wet & Dry	6	23 x 12 x 12	Chairside or Central V	\$689	Change canister every 6 months at \$99. Settlement tank every 1-2 years at \$59.	Install cost of \$160 + extra parts & labor.
METASYS - Pure Water Development	Walter Ruffini 305-663-2989	ECO II Economy Type 2	Settlement	96.7 at 2 liters/min	Wet & Dry	6	14 x 9 x 8.7	Central Vacuum	\$650	Separator exchange kit \$288. Apply cleaner regularly. Unit exchanged annually for \$75 per chair including recycling.	
R & D Services (The Amalgam Collector)	Deanna Fraker 800-816-4995	CH9/12	Settlement	99.9% (Batch Proc.) Capacity is 2.3 liters for CH9, 3.7 l for the CH12, 6.5 l for CE18 and 9.3 l for CE24.	Wet & Dry	1	12-18 x 8 x 6	Chairside	\$575	Install Cost of ~ \$100 - \$125. Maintenance requires adjusting external valves weekly and monitor the liquid level and decant as needed.	Select height of unit to be purchased based on flow rate. Auto decantation model available.
		CE12				1	15-18 x 8 x 6	Central V	\$680		
		CE15				2-3	19-23 x 8 x 6	Central V	\$785		
		CE18				3-5	22-26 x 8 x 6	Central V	\$785		
		CE24				6-12	34 x 8 x 10	Central V	\$1195		
RAMVAC	Robert A Meyer 800-572-6822	Hg5	Settlement Filtration Ion Exch.	99.82% at 0.05 liters/min & 97.4% at 0.75 liters/min	Wet & Dry	10	29 x 14 x 8	Central Vacuum	\$695	Canister replaced biannually. Replacement cartridge w/ recycling \$250.	Modified SolmeteX Hg5 Separator for use w/ RAMVAC vacuum.
Rebec, LLC (RME 2000- Catch Hg)	Mike Jeffers 800-569-1088	400 1000 1000 Plus 9000 9000 Plus	Settlement Filtration	99.67% at 1 liter/min	Wet & Dry	1-4 5-10 5-10 10-30 30+	18 x 14 x 8 23.5 x 20 x 8 24 x 20 x 16 48 x 24 x 22 48 x 24 x 22	Central Vacuum	\$1185 \$1995 \$2198 \$3620	\$445 for 400 & 1000 annually, \$645 for 1000 Plus and 9000, \$795 for 9000 Plus. Includes replacement, shipping, recycling, and certificate.	Plus system adds a buffer container to capture particles to extend the life of the collector.
Solmetex, Inc.	Al Dube 508-393-5115 508-397-9725	Hg 5 Hg 5Mini	Settlement Filtration Ion Exchange	99.82% at 0.05 l/min & 97.4% at 0.75 l/min 99.82% at 0.1 l/min & 97.4% at 1.5 l/min 99.99% (Batch Pro.)	Wet & Dry	10 4	30 x 13 x 10 21.5 x 11 x 8	Central Vacuum	\$695 \$695	Filter replaced approx. bi-annually. The \$250 filter replacement includes recycling. Replace filter + resin cartridge quarterly in Hg10.	Scrap amalgam program. Electricity required on Hg10. Weekly oxidizer tablet.
		Hg 5HV Hg 10				20 10+	28 x 18 x 23 48 x 72 x 24		\$2500 \$7400		
Sultan Healthcare	800-637-8582	Purevac Hg Amalgam Separator	Settlement Filtration	99% at 0.75 liters/min	Wet & Dry	1-6 7-12	8 x 26	Central Vacuum	\$1080 with line cleaner for year.	Dental office is responsible for recycling amalgam waste from separator.	Separator is bundled with Purevac Hg evacuation line cleaner solution.

This listing is for informational purposes only and it is not an endorsement of any product or dental supplier by PACE. If you are a vendor or manufacturer and would like to be added or to update this list, please call PACE at 303-441-1183.